

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

As a symbol of the great fun, freedom and exercise that summer brings, on July 20, our city celebrated the groundbreaking for construction of a new recreation facility at the Emery playground site in Ward 4.

This \$6.2 million project is not just the brainchild of our city government. It's a testament to how input from citizens can breathe life into community projects. Local residents have contributed to the project in part by providing constructive feedback.

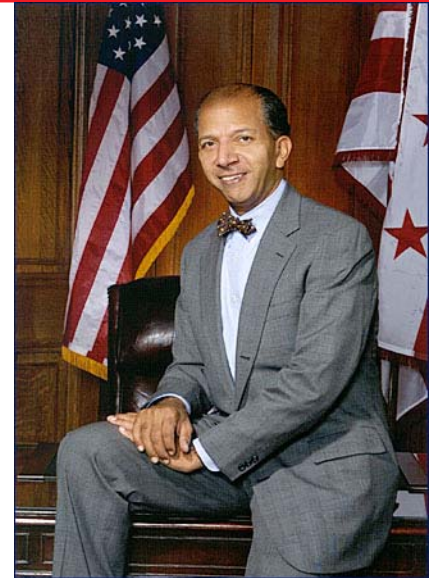
The new Emery Recreation Center at Georgia Avenue and Madison Street in Northwest will provide a two-story recreation facility to the community, including an indoor gymnasium.

When it's completed next year, the center will have offices, meeting space, multi-purpose rooms and a hardwood floor gym. Site improvements include energy efficient lighting, fencing, a sodded ball field, a new backstop, exercise equipment and a sprinkler system. A parking lot will also be added with an entrance off Georgia Avenue.

The Emery Recreation Center is named after M.G. Emery, who stipulated in his will that the land be used for recreational or educational purposes. The size of the current recreation center is 3,000 square feet, but the new center will be nearly 10 times as large.

The new center is another example of our commitment to support young people and help them reach their full potential. It's also an example of building community spirit. Collectively, we can achieve more than when acting alone.

For more information on restoration of our recreation centers, visit <http://www.mydcparks.com>.



## Grants Support Homeland Security Volunteers

Volunteer service efforts are the heart and soul of our city, and I was pleased on July 18 to announce three grants totaling nearly \$1 million to bolster volunteer efforts for homeland security.

Gov. Tom Ridge, Homeland Security Advisor to President Bush, joined me at the First District Police Station to announce the three grants. Spread among several programs, the funds will help the District of Columbia's Commission on National Community Service, the National Capital Chapter of the American Red Cross and the National Association of Community Health Centers.

This is great news for our hardworking volunteers in the city. They're dedicated to making this a safe and thriving world capital. People from all walks of life visit our city, and it's amazing to think that hundreds of monuments, museums, parks and gardens dot the city's 68.2 square miles.

Our local Citizen Corps program, led by the Commission on National Community Service, is an important part of the city's plan to train residents who want to volunteer on homeland security efforts.

In the end, the grants will help support volunteers who work in the fields of public safety, public health, emergency response and disaster preparedness.

At the ceremony, Gov. Ridge said, "Citizens can and must play an active role in protecting their communities." I agree, and I'm delighted that this money is being put to such good use.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

# Employee Profile

## OCP Employee Provides Outstanding Customer Service

Easy to work with and willing to help are Dorene Brown's most notable on-the-job characteristics. A Supervisory Contract Specialist with the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), Dorene typically executes a very high number of contracts at a high dollar volume. Last year, Dorene received an award for Customer Service Excellence during the District's first observance of National Customer Service Week in October.



Dorene Brown

Jacques Abadie, Chief Procurement Officer, nominated Dorene for the award for exceptional customer service and productivity while completing procurements at the OCP bureau in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer. "Dorene's coworkers have told her supervisor she is one of the easiest people to work with and that she is always willing to help," he said. "The attitude of good customer service appears to be ingrained in her personality. All the OCP customers who have been in contact with Dorene have commented that she is extremely polite, helpful, and efficient."

So far this year, Dorene has completed 306 contract actions worth \$42 million in an average of 9.3 days each.

"As you can imagine, I am very lucky to have her working for me," said Bruce Witty, Dorene's supervisor at OCP.

Dorene is the sole contract specialist responsible for 92 DC Supply Schedule Contracts for the Office of the Chief Technology Officer. Contractors have commented that Dorene is a true professional who gives them the information they require to serve the information technology needs of the District. Program managers have commented that she produces high value delivery orders on time with a polite, cheerful attitude that makes her a joy to work with.

This year, the District will celebrate Customer Service Week from October 7 – 11. For information on how to nominate a District employee for a customer service award, go to [http://www.washingtondc.gov/mayor/customer\\_service/national\\_customer.shtm](http://www.washingtondc.gov/mayor/customer_service/national_customer.shtm).

## International Business Development Center Launches

On Tuesday, July 16, the District of Columbia took yet another step in branching out to the world.

We cut the ribbon on the new International Business Development Office (IBDO) at the DC Chamber of Commerce offices at 12th and K Streets in downtown Washington. This office is a bold step by the District government and the DC Chamber to increase business procurement opportunities for small and minority firms in our city. It will also help these firms reach out to the federal government and international organizations.

When I took office, I made a commitment to increase opportunities for our small and minority firms. This is another step in the right direction. Small and minority firms might not operate on the scale of large companies, but they're helping rebuild our city step by step.

Over the next year, we have several goals for the International Business Development Office. First, we plan to provide technical assistance to prepare minority firms to do business in the international arena. Next, the office will provide networking opportunities to help minority firms garner international business.

Washington is an international city, and the IBDO will help these important small firms prosper globally. I'm looking forward to seeing results from this office over the next year, and most of all I am excited for the impact these businesses can have on the world. For more information about the IBDO, call the DC Chamber of Commerce at (202) 347-7201.



LINK TO OTHER  
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention  
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

## District Provides Tax—Free Week Again

### Get ready to shop – tax-free.

In an effort to help residents cut the cost of buying back-to-school items and other goods, I'm proud to announce the District of Columbia's "Sales Tax Holiday" in the second week of August.

The sales tax holiday for clothing, school supplies and footwear will take place from 12:01 am Friday, August 9, through midnight on Sunday, August 18. Clothing, school supplies and footwear priced under \$100 will be exempt from sales tax during this time. The break gives citizens a well deserved, 10-day "tax vacation" as they buy back-to-school goods and other items.

This is a wonderful opportunity for District residents and visitors to save money, and it has proven to be a shot in the arm for the District's economy. The tax holiday is timed perfectly to match the financial pressures that often hit parents, guardians and students during back-to-school time.

Thanks go to the DC Council and in particular Councilmember Carol Schwartz for her leadership in establishing the sales tax holiday again this year. So I urge you to join us and shop tax—free in DC for two weeks and two weekends, August 9 through August 18!

## District Activities



Mayor Williams dons a costume as a security guard at the opening of the International Spy Museum.



On July 18, Governor Tom Ridge, USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland, and Corporation for National and Community Service CEO Leslie Lenkowsky announced three grants totaling nearly \$1 million to support District volunteers active in homeland security in the city.



Mayor Williams speaks with a merchant at Hechinger Mall during a community walk in the area.



Groundbreaking takes place for new recreation facility and gymnasium at Emery Recreation Center in Ward 4 at Georgia Avenue and Madison Street, NW.



# Community News

- [District of Columbia Introduces 529 College Savings Plan](#)
- [Mayor Williams Testifies On Voting Rights](#)
- [Mayor Lauds Congress For Passing FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.

# Upcoming Events

07/28 – 08/04	<b>Restaurant Week</b> Visit Washington, DC's finest restaurants for awe-inspiring, multi-course meals prepared especially for this gourmet event. Lunch is \$20.02 and dinner is \$30.02. For a complete listing of participating restaurants, go to <a href="http://www.washington.org">www.washington.org</a> .
08/06	<b>National Night Out</b> 5 pm – Kick-off Brentwood Recreation Center, 2300 block of 15th Street, NE, at 5 pm
08/09 – 08/18	<b>Sales Tax Holiday in the District</b> Clothing, school supplies and footwear priced under \$100 is exempt from District sales tax during this time period at District stores.
08/24	<b>Georgia Avenue Day</b>

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

